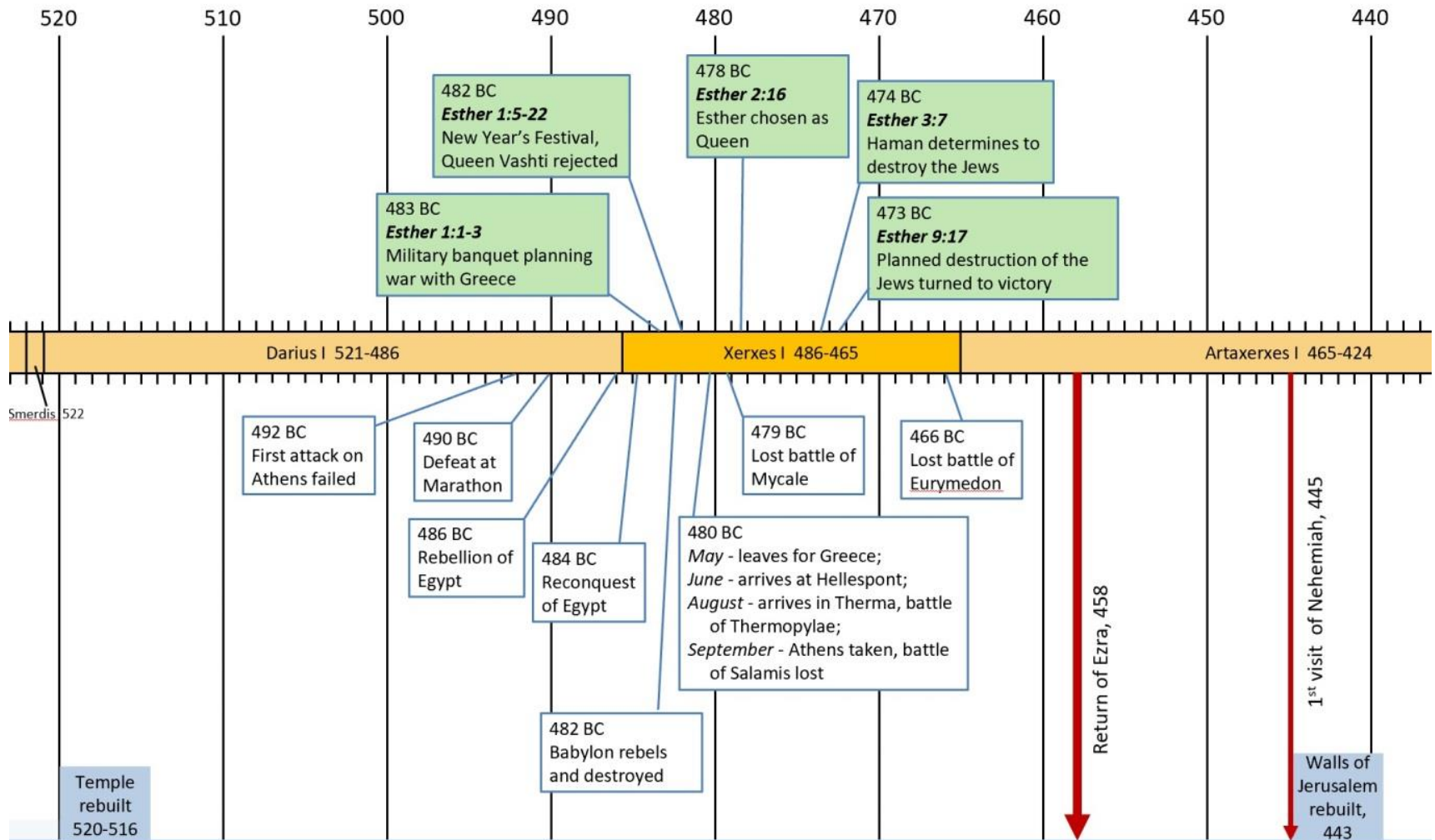


ESTHER 6



Setting of Esther



HAGGAI

ZECHARIAH

NEHEMIAH

EZRA

Esther Timeline

- By this point in the account of Esther, we are ten years since the events of Chapter 1
- Esther has been Queen for 4-5 years
- The proposed date for the annihilation of the Jews is within a few months

Esther 6:1

1 On that night the king could not sleep. And he gave orders to bring the book of memorable deeds, the chronicles, and they were read before the king.

- ✓ Some sleepless nights are God-ordained
- ✓ Events continue to unfold during the delay for Esther's second feast

Ancient Scrolls



God's Timetable

- Esther's "delay" of the second feast has allowed certain events to unfold
- Haman has encountered Mordecai another time in the palace court and has been counseled by his friends and family to build gallows for his execution
- The king will endure a sleepless night and request the chronicles be read to him

Esther 6:2-3

2 And it was found written how Mordecai had told about Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, and who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus.

3 And the king said, “What honor or distinction has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?” The king's young men who attended him said, “Nothing has been done for him.”

Esther 6:2-3

- ✓ Mordecai's role in saving the king's life had gone unnoticed until this fateful night
- ✓ How many books were in the Persian archives? What are the chances that this book of record would be brought on this night and turned to this page?

Esther 6:4-6

4 And the king said, “Who is in the court?” Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to speak to the king about having Mordecai hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

5 And the king's young men told him, “Haman is there, standing in the court.” And the king said, “Let him come in.”

6 So Haman came in, and the king said to him, “What should be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?” And Haman said to himself, “Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?”

Esther 6:7-9

7 And Haman said to the king, “For the man whom the king delights to honor,

8 let royal robes be brought, which the king has worn, and the horse that the king has ridden, and on whose head a royal crown is set.

9 And let the robes and the horse be handed over to one of the king's most noble officials. Let them dress the man whom the king delights to honor, and let them lead him on the horse through the square of the city, proclaiming before him: ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.’”

Esther 6:4-9

- ✓ There is no evidence for Haman to have paused to consider his response as he probably had one rehearsed already
- ✓ It would seem that God's sense of humor is about to make an appearance
- ✓ The characters in this drama continue to be moved to precise locations at precise times

Esther 6:10-12

10 Then the king said to Haman, “Hurry; take the robes and the horse, as you have said, and do so to Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Leave out nothing that you have mentioned.”

11 So Haman took the robes and the horse, and he dressed Mordecai and led him through the square of the city, proclaiming before him, “Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor.”

12 Then Mordecai returned to the king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered.

Haman leads Mordecai



Esther 6:10-12

- ✓ This is the first time Haman's head is covered
- ✓ Without even trying, Mordecai continues to defy Haman publicly
- ✓ The king is still oblivious to the object of Haman's legislation as he addresses Mordecai as "Jewish"

Esther 6:13-14

13 And Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of the Jewish people, you will not overcome him but will surely fall before him.”

14 While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs arrived and hurried to bring Haman to the feast that Esther had prepared.

Esther 6:13-14

- ✓ Haman's close friends and his wife see these events as foretelling his own demise before Mordecai
- ✓ Even nonbelievers can recognize when the hand of God is at work

Proverbs 21:12

12 The Righteous One observes the house of the wicked; he throws the wicked down to ruin.